



EPI NEWS

Issue No. 5

Disease Reporting From 8:00 – 5:00 Call 487-3186 After hours Call 201-0804

February 2005

Leon County Health Department

■ Arthur P. Cooper

Administrator 487-3146

■ Marjorie Kirsch

Medical Director . . . 487-3162

■ Frankie Mathews

Nursing Director . . . 487-3186

■ Alex Mahon

Environmental Hlth 487-3166

■ Jack Pittman

PH Preparedness . 487-3146

■ Loyce Hill

Communicable Disease . . .
487-3186

■ Rebecca D'Alessio

Epidemiology . . . 487-3186

Main Clinic

2965 Municipal Way,
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Roberts and Stevens

1515 Old Bainbridge Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

South Side

872 West Orange Avenue,
Tallahassee, FL 32310

Environmental Health

3401 West Tharpe Street,
Tallahassee FL 32304

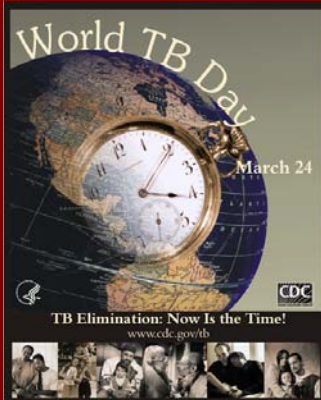
For more surveillance
information, see the DOH

Web site at
<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/hsee/arbo/index.htm>

or call the
Disease Outbreak
Information Hotline which
offers updates on medical
alert status and
surveillance at
888.880.5782



Hot Topics



World TB Day 2005 . . . Past, Present and Future

History of World TB Day

In the late 19th century, TB killed one out of every seven people living in the United States and Europe. On March 24, 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of the TB bacillus. At the time, his discovery was the most important step taken towards the control and elimination of this deadly disease.

In 1982, a century after Dr. Koch's announcement, the first World TB Day was sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD). The event was intended to educate the public about the devastating health and economic consequences of TB, its effect on developing countries, and its continued tragic impact on global health.

TB remains a threat to the health and well-being of people around the world. Among infectious diseases, TB remains the second leading killer of adults in the world, with more than 2 million TB-related deaths each year. Until TB is controlled, World TB Day won't be a celebration. But it is a valuable opportunity to educate the public about the devastation TB can spread and how it can be stopped

Tuberculosis - Yes! It's Still a Problem!

- Eight million new tuberculosis (TB) cases occur each year in the world and 3 million people die of the disease.
- In the United States, after several decades of decline, TB cases increased 20 percent between 1985 and 1992. Reasons for the increase included:
 - ◆ The HIV epidemic
 - ◆ Immigration of persons from areas with a high prevalence of TB
 - ◆ Transmission of TB in high-risk environments, such as correctional facilities, homeless shelters, hospitals, and nursing homes
 - ◆ Deterioration of the TB public health care infrastructure
- During the resurgence of TB, outbreaks of multi-drug resistant TB occurred in hospitals and prisons, resulting in high death rates and transmission to health care workers.
- The 21,337 TB cases reported in 1996 represent the fourth consecutive year of decline, suggesting the successful use of new resources in different areas of the U.S. to better detect and treat persons with active TB and latent infection.
- While the decrease in TB cases is encouraging, there are several areas of concern which will require expanded efforts:

Please report suspected Tuberculosis cases within 72 hours

EPI Reporting

What to report?

Suspected or diagnosed communicable diseases and outbreaks. List of the diseases can be obtained from the Leon County Health Department by calling **(850) 488-3186** or http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor83.pdf

Why Report?

Health care practitioners are very busy people and an individual practitioner may not know what is happening in their community at all times. Reporting of communicable disease makes it possible to prevent further spread of the disease.

Who should report?

All licensed health care practitioner.

When should the report be made?

These reports should be made promptly within 72 hours.

Immediate Notifiable Conditions includes:

- Public health emergencies
- Unusual events/disease, e.g. possible Bioterrorism event/disease, Category A
- And any disease outbreak.

Where to report?

Direct further inquiry to the Leon County Health Department Epidemiology, Nursing Program Specialist, **Rebecca D'Alessio** at 487-3186.



Community Hotline

Tuberculosis - Yes! It's Still a Problem! - Continued from page 1

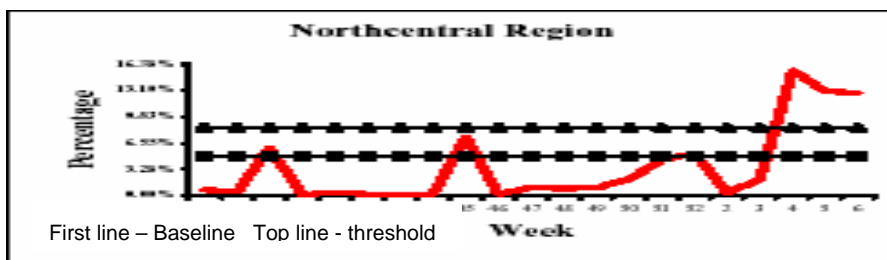
- TB cases continue to increase in many areas.
- Outbreaks of drug-resistant TB continue in many areas.
- An estimated 10 to 15 million persons in the U.S. are infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Without intervention, about 10 percent of these persons will develop TB disease at some point in life.
- Directly observed therapy is not available for many persons with active TB who have difficulty completing a full course of TB treatment.
- An increasing proportion of TB cases in the U.S. are among individuals born in areas with a high prevalence of TB, and international collaboration needs to be strengthened to prevent and control TB in these persons.

Leon County TB Cases and Incidence Rates with County Case Ranks

Years	Cases	Population	Incidence Rate/ 100,000	State Case Rank	Percent Completing Treatment
2001	13	245,334	5.3	N/A	100%
2002	19	249,089	7.6	13	94.4%
2003	10	256,856	3.9	17	Pending
2004	9	261,230	3.4	Pending	Pending

Northcentral Region - Florida Influenza and Influenza-Like-Illness Surveillance (6 weeks)

— The graph reflects the North central region that includes Leon County. This region reported the highest Influenza activity at 12.81%; however, this only represents reporting from sentinel physicians.



Leon County - Sentinel Physician -Week 7 (2005)

Data from 1 local physicians reporting on Influenza sentinel data:

Total Patients Seen – 112 with 50% of sentinel providers reporting.
Total Influenza Like Illness (ILI) Seen – 20 (9 - Age 0-4 and 11 - Age 5-24)

Leon County Health Department (LCHD) has seen a steady increase in the number of influenza like illness. LCHD has received confirmed reports of cases of predominately influenza type A with a single case of influenza type B. No outbreaks have been reported.

Disease Reporting: suspected or diagnosed communicable diseases call 487-3186 (8 am - 5pm Monday thru Friday) and call 201-0804 (after hours, holidays and weekends).

White Powder Reporting: suspected white powder call 487-3162 (8 am - 5pm Monday thru Friday) and call 201-0804 (after hours, holidays, and weekends).

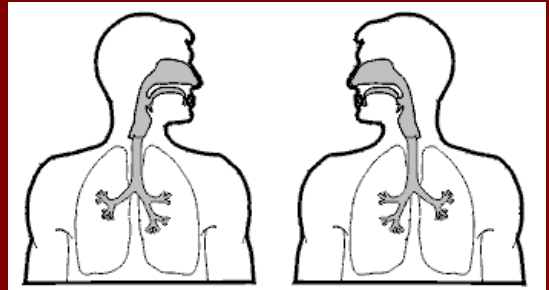
Bureau of TB and Refugee Health, Florida Department of Health

In 1995, Florida's incidence rate for TB was 11.0 cases per 100,000 population, which declined to 6.1 in 2003. In addition, the number of reported TB cases decreased by 33 percent for the same time frame. There were 1,046 cases reported in 2003 that represented a 3.7 percent reduction from the 1,086 cases reported in 2002. Florida continues to rank fourth in the country in the number of TB cases reported, behind California, Texas, and New York. However, all three of these states experienced increases in TB morbidity for 2003.

As much as it is our mission to eliminate tuberculosis as a public health threat in Florida, it is also our vision to be the model TB program for the nation. This distinction is truly within reach, because of the infrastructure in place throughout the state. Our TB Physicians Network provides excellent medical consultation to our county health departments and private medical providers. A.G. Holley Hospital provides us with a venue to treat the most difficult cases of TB that, under most circumstances, would potentially become treatment failures. Our county health departments' TB Control staff is on the frontlines ensuring that TB control and prevention measures are in place and practiced.

The Bureau of TB and Refugee Health is committed to providing timely and accurate technical assistance, professional consultation, and administrative support to all 67 county TB control programs. In addition, the Refugee Health section of the Bureau has in place a very successful refugee health-screening program, as well as their Interpretation and Translation Services.

Jim Cobb, Chief, Bureau of TB and Refugee Health



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